



MEETING SUMMARY
WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMISSION (WRAC)
LOWER EAST COAST WATER SUPPLY PLAN (LEC Plan)
ISSUES WORKSHOP
South Florida Water Management District
3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, Florida
July 28, 2004

Attendees:

Irela Bagué – Chair of LEC Plan Issues Workshop and SFWMD Governing Board Member

WRAC Members:

Walter Carson	Barbara Miedema
Harry Cronin	Howard Wegis

WRAC Alternates:

Kelly Brooks	Fred Rapach
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Interested Parties:

Mark Abbott	Mick Finn	Linda McCarthy
Danna Ackerman White	Donna Fries	Paul Millar
Kara Baxter	Jamie Furgang	Phil Parsons
Kristin Bennett	Lorraine Guise	Ron Ramon
Thomas Blumberg	Lorraine Heisler	Roy Reynolds
Hector Castro	David Hoot	Jeff Rosenfeld
Reddy Chitepu	Lisa Interlandi	Liberta Scotto
Richard Dent	Jennifer Jurado	Susan Teel
Darrell Dunn	Lisa Interlandi	Alley Trefry
Sharon Fauver	Steve Lamb	Cathy Vogel
Laura Feakes	Stewart Magenheimer	Virginia Walsh
Linda Ferrell	Maria Loucraft-Manzano	

SFWMD Staff:

Ashje Akpoji	John Mulliken	Rick Smith
Scott Burns	Davies Mtundu	Patricia Walker
Kate Edgerton	Jayantha Obeysekera	
Jim Jackson	Cecile Ross	

1. Welcome by Irela Bagué, Chair, LEC Plan Issues Workshop. The meeting was called to order at 9:18 a.m. This is the second meeting of the LECWSP Update.

Chair Bagué announced changes to the Agenda.

Section 120.525, Florida Statutes, allows the District to change the published agenda for good cause shown. Based upon that authority, the Chair of the Lower East Coast Water Supply Plan of the Water Resources Advisory Commission, South Florida Water Management District, determined that good cause exists to make the following changes.

Item 3 will now be “Content of LEC Plan Update” (old Item 9); Item 4 will be “Model Overview” (old Item 3); Item 4 - “Break” will be deleted; Item 5 will stay the same “Lower East Coast Sub-Regional Groundwater Model”; Item 6 will be “Overview of Performance Measures” (old Item 7); Item 7 will be “Performance Measure (PM) Viewer” (old Item 8); Item 10 is postponed until the next meeting “Reservations of Water”; Item 8 – Public Comment (Old Item 11); 9 will be “Schedule for Next Meeting” (old Item 12); and 13 – Adjourn. Chair Bagué spoke on Item 10 – “Reservation of Water” and said that item will be moved to the next meeting and will be scheduled for a 2 hour discussion period in order to have all the information provided to interested parties that is required.

The WRAC is the vehicle for these workshops to update the plan in the 18 month timetable. Comments are critical and are welcome. Information on what will be reviewed in the update was listed by Chair Bagué.

2. LEC Project Status by Jim Jackson, LEC Project Manage, SFWMD.

Request made by a stakeholder to review the topics that were discussed at the last meeting as he was absent. Chair Bagué said this will be done each meeting. A copy of this presentation is made a part of the official record of this meeting.

Mr. Jackson presented information on the “update process” with the procedures to be used. The Kick-off Meeting for the LEC Water Supply Plan was held on June 24, 2004. Today’s meeting is to discuss the modeling tools. There will be multiple meetings beginning in August 2004. The report to the WRAC is scheduled for October 7, and the Governing Board on October 13.

The requirement for the Water Supply Plan is for a 20 year planning period. There is a 1 in 10 level of certainty. Information on water resource development and minimum flows and levels was provided by Mr. Jackson.

The structure of the document that is being used provided consistency with other water management plans. Presentation contained information for demand estimates and projections; issue identification; resource analyses; evaluation of water source options, and recommendations.

The purpose, goals and objectives, planning process, and the accomplishments from the 2000 LEC Plan were reviewed. Information on demand estimates and projections was given; as well as information on resource analyses; issue identification; evaluation of water source options; and reuse evaluation.

The recommendations for water resource development are: (1) description of roles for WMDs and other parties; (2) cost; (3) funding sources; (4) timetable; and (5) implementing agency. Recommendations for the water supply development projects are: (1) description of roles for WMDs and other parties; and (2) relationship of projects to Five-Year Work Program.

Mr. Jackson said that Broward County has provided information for the discussion. Roy Reynolds was introduced. Mr. Reynolds provided a list of Broward County's comments and he read them for the group. A copy of Mr. Reynolds' written suggestions for the LEC Plan is titled "Requested Initial Discussion Items for July 28, 2004 LECRWSP Update Meeting". This is made available as an official record of the meeting.

Announcement:

Chair Bagué asked for introductions and the affiliation from all attendees.

Return to Presentation:

Comments and input from stakeholders. Several stakeholders concurred with Mr. Reynolds' remarks. The issue of water availability and issue identification are very important. Recent legislation regarding usage of canal systems is an important component and how it will fit into the plan was questioned.

John Mulliken, Deputy Department Director, Water Supply Department, SFWMD, said this goes back to the "B" List Rules and information on water availability modeling was provided. Cecile Ross, Attorney, Office of Counsel, SFWMD, provided information on updating the plan and a work product that will enable the District to reach a consensus. A stakeholder requested that this be included in these workshops. Enough water for projected needs is a presumption and the ramifications were discussed by Mr. Mulliken and Mr. Jackson. Model runs for the initial CERP updates will provide additional needed information. Initial water needs to be met in a 3, 4, 5 year term is an important issue to stakeholder.

Comments from stakeholders continued. There is a need for water resource planning. What are local governments doing regarding resource planning? It is important for the group to know this information. The strategy by the water management district is important to know regarding reuse and recharge.

Further discussion held by interested parties and staff on state and federal water supply demands and plans. Chair Bagué said an agenda item on Alternative Water Supply will be at a future meeting. Funding on water reuse is important.

3. Modeling Overview

- Updated Version of South Florida Water Management Model
- Updated Version of the Natural System Model

By: Jayantha Obeysekera, Director, Office of Modeling.

Dr. Obeysekera presented information on the basics of modeling; the modeling approach; regional hydrologic models; recent model updates; and regional vs. sub-regional models. A copy of the presentation is made a part of the official record of this meeting.

Modeling is only a “representation” of a physical system or process. A complete review of exactly what modeling encompasses was provided. For more information, the District’s webpage on modeling is located at http://modeling.cerpzone.org/cerp_recover/pmviewer/pmviewer.jsp

Question and answer session. Stakeholders provided follow-up questions and comments on the presentation. Several staff members provided information.

4. Lower East Coast Sub-Regional Groundwater Model, by Jeff Giddings, Senior Supervising Hydrogeologist, Planning and Implementation Division.

Mr. Giddings presented information the groundwater model. A copy of his presentation is made a part of the official record of this meeting.

He explained the need for modeling and the goal to provide a 1 in 10 year level of certainty for users, without causing harm and to protect water resources from significant harm. The presentation contained extensive information on all aspects of modeling in the Lower East Coast sub-region. Informational charts on calibration wells in the region were reviewed.

Question and answer session. Stakeholder asked a question on consumptive use permitting (CUP) and Scott Burns, Division Director, Water Use Regulation, SFWMD, provided information on the planning criteria and the rules for permitting. Stakeholder said that if the modeling is not acceptable for permitting, this needs to be determined now and stakeholders informed as soon as possible. What the models mean to stakeholders and the effects of the water use and the ability to obtain consumptive use permits. Mr. Burns provided further information and said that models that are acceptable for modeling and models that were acceptable for CUPs are different. Stakeholder commented that for this plan to be successful, it is critical, it has to come together between permitting and water supply, and if not, then let the interested parties know that.

Request by a stakeholder to have a future agenda item to present information for the protection of natural systems, that once we have water reservations, not violating existing legal use, how we are going to go about doing the linkages in the regulatory context regarding consumptive use permitting and water supply and how they will be linked up. Scott Burns provided additional information.

Further discussion among staff members and stakeholders on issues of groundwater modeling. A stakeholder made a request regarding wellfields and the problem of saltwater intrusion were discussed and a sub-group of experts was requested to discuss the technical details of the problems and report back to the main group. Include U. S. geological personnel in the group. Mr. Burns provided clarification and information regarding funding and monitoring in U. S. studies. Mr. Mulliken said the annual meeting with the USGS and this might be the forum to discuss this subject. He will provide the information he finds to the stakeholders.

Question on the water conservations areas and the topography and Mr. Giddings provide additional information. Mr. Mulliken provided information on model peer review and consistency with CERP.

Return to Item 2 – LEC Project Status Presentation:

Chair Bagué informed the group they would return to the topics presented by Roy Reynolds, Broward County, earlier in the meeting. Stakeholders' comments and review was requested.

Specifics of the proposals were requested by Mr. Mulliken to Mr. Reynolds. Mr. Reynolds said there is a diverse group of stakeholders interested in this matter, and he would like to see sub-groups set up and meetings advertised. Mr. Reynolds offered one of Broward County's meeting rooms to hold such meetings. Chair Bagué said future meetings will be scheduled in different locations. Chair Bagué said a technical advisory type meeting will be worked out to accommodate the stakeholders. Staff will work with them and she requested that they let staff know specifically what needs to be discussed.

A stakeholders suggested that the place to start would be from Mr. Reynolds' suggestions – 1a – second bullet – “The anticipated water availability, including the amount, schedule, period of supply, from all current and proposed sources, including CERP and LECRWSP projects.” A realistic schedule needs to be provided by SFWMD of CERP projects that will create water availability. Mr. Mulliken said he is unsure this is an appropriate venue for SFWMD since this is a CERP project. Stakeholder asked “Will we have any water resource development projects in five years, ten years, 20 years?” Mr. Jackson provided additional information on the modeling that is currently being done and the information that will be available in the coming months.

Roundtable discussion on several issues. Chair Bagué provided information on upcoming meeting dates and stakeholders provided information on locations, dates, etc.

Chair Bagué adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m. and reconvene at 1:00 p.m.

Announcement: John Mulliken said Chair Bagué had to leave the meeting due to travel constraints and she sent her apologies.

5. Overview of Performance Measures by Jim Jackson.

Mr. Jackson presented information regarding the method used to determine how well (or poorly) a selected water management alternative meets the objectives of the LEC Regional Water Supply Plan. Good performance measures are: (1) quantifiable, (2) have a specific target, and (3) indicate when target has been reached, or measure the degree of improvement toward meeting the target.

The LEC uses two general types of performance measures – environmental and water supply. The LEC environmental performance measures key areas were explained. How indicator regions link performance measures and models was reviewed. The presentation showed examples of environmental performance measures developed for each indicator region. Mr. Jackson explained graphs and charts showing normalized weekly stage duration curves for South WCA-2A; the number of time minimum level criteria were exceeded in South WCA-2A; inundation summary table for indicator regions; and simulated average annual water budget summary.

The performance measures for the St. Lucie Estuary were presented. Information included the number of time salinity envelope criteria were not met for the estuary.

Performance measures mean annual EAA/LOSA supplement irrigation; demands and demands not met for certain drought years were explained. The frequency of water restrictions for the 1965 – 1995 simulation periods was shown on a chart.

The evaluation process and score definitions were shown to the stakeholders. The incremental modeling results for the LEC natural areas from a 1995 base through CERP 2050 were shown.

6. Performance Measure (PM) Viewer, by Kevin Rodberg, Acting Director, Technology Resource Team Division.

Mr. Rodberg explained how the PM viewer is used to general results. This is a data driven web application for access and review of modeling performance measures. The features of the PM viewer include:

- Applicable to many models, projects results;
- Consistent look and feel between models;
- Easier navigation;
- Selection by model, project and set of alternatives or scenarios;
- Hierarchy of choices available based on spatial features, topics and navigation bar.
- Filtering for desire performance graphics;
- Ability to review descriptive text through a web interface and view it in the web page immediately;
- Ability to download some of the input, output and source code; and
- More quickly present results.

The functions of the PM Viewer were presented.

Information on model runs will be available shortly on the District's website. Stakeholders were informed they may check out www.everglades.org website for information.

A stakeholder asked if there will be alternatives in the new LEC Plan and Mr. Jackson said this would be available in the in updated plan.

7. Content of LEC Plan Update by Jim Jackson.

8. Reservation of Water, by Cecile Ross, Senior Attorney, Office of Counsel.

9. Public Comment.

10. Schedule for Next Workshop by John Mulliken.

The next meeting will be the 30th of August in Broward. The technical workshop will be scheduled and all interested parties will be informed of the date and time.

Meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Irela Bagué
Chair – LEC Plan Issues Workshop

Paula Moree,
Staff Bus. Ops. Analyst, SFWMD
